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homemakers' chat

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U. S. DEPARTMENT
OF AGRICULTURE

Wednesday February 4, 1942

SUBJECT: "Food the Nation Needs." Information from Triple A Officials of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

--ooOoo--

Today I have information for you concerning this year's probable food supply in the United States and a few facts about what this supply will mean to you and your family.

No doubt you read in the papers about the Department of Agriculture's National Outlook Conference held in Washington a few weeks ago. Well...the main topic discussed there was the revised 1942 production goals.

As a consumer you would have liked to have been there you would have heard about 3 square meals a day in every American home.

Since you couldn't be there, I'm going to pass along some of the facts released at that conference.

At first those 1942 goals for what farmers need to produce sound like just another batch of big figures that brains can't really comprehend. Yes...I, too, need a pencil to add, but by just running those figures through my head I know they mean a lot of food. In fact, those goals are tremendous. Just listen to the size of them!

The goal for milk is 125 billion pounds.

The goal for eggs is 4 and a quarter billion dozen.

And the goal for hogs to be slaughtered is 83 million head.

Let's see if we can make those huge sums more definite. Just how much food do they mean? I understood them better after I had compared them with farm production of the last two years.

You remember 1940 was a good year. Plenty of food raised for all we wanted to eat. Last year farmers did even a better job...more food raised than in 1940.

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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

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On 11/11/1964, the following letter was received from the Department of the Interior:

1. If the number of nodes is small, then the number of nodes is small.

In fact, the figures from last year's crop set some new records.

But this record production isn't any where near as large as the goals set for this year. That milk goal of 125 billion pounds means that for every 30 pounds of milk produced last year, there'll be 33 pounds produced this year. Generally speaking that egg goal of 4 and a quarter billion dozen means that for every half dozen eggs hens laid in '41, they'll lay an extra egg in '42. And that pork goal of 83 million hogs to be slaughtered for meat means that for every hundred pounds of pork butchered last year, there'll be 114 pounds butchered this year.

So you see those immense figures do mean a lot of food. There are two questions raised over and over again about these food production goals. Can farmers raise that much food? And, if so, What is the Nation going to do with all of it?

Taking the first question ...can farmers produce that much food in one year? Let's turn to the record again and see if it will give a clue as to the answer. Farmers produced all the food we needed in 1940, and even more last year. After carefully making their plans, they have already tackled the job laid out for them this year.

The Secretary of Agriculture, Claude R. Wickard, believes they can do it. As he expressed it: "Some of these goals will be difficult to reach, but we believe that farmers can do it despite war time shortages of farm labor, machinery, and production supplies."

That sounds convincing...so let's assume that farmers will raise these vast amounts of food this year. Now, logically, the second question comes up: What are we going to do with all of it?

Well...back to those records again. We ate most of the 1940 crop...Your family and my family...and millions of American families like yours and mine



The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country's development.

The second part of the report deals with the economic situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's economic development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country's economic development.

The third part of the report deals with the social situation of the country. It is a very interesting and informative study of the country's social development. The author has done a great deal of research and has gathered a wealth of material. The report is well written and is a valuable contribution to the study of the country's social development.

consumed all we wanted, and we still had abundant reserves. What about last year's record crop? Most of that we ate...but not all of it. The British Food Mission recently announced the arrival of the millionth ton of American food under the terms of the Lend-Lease Act.

A million tons of food sent to England during the first nine months of Lend Lease shipment! That is a lot of food...especially when you realize that most of it was in concentrated forms such as dried and condensed milk, cheese, and dried eggs.

The size of Lend Lease shipments is one thing, but the meaning behind them is even more important. Food has become an important implement of war. It has taken its place beside airplanes, tanks and guns.

Since war broke out in the Pacific the United Nations are fighting the Axis power. This statement is really more significant than I made it sound. The United Nations...twenty-six of us...are combining our resources to win this war.. and food is one of these resources. The United States is fortunate to be able to raise an abundance of food.

President Roosevelt announced that we will produce 60 thousand airplanes in 1942 to be used anywhere they're needed against the enemy. Wherever airplanes are needed, you can be sure food will be needed. But the question is how much food? Secretary Wickard says: "No one can foresee the exact size of the food needs of our allies a year from now; but already we know they will be large, and I fear they'll be larger than we realize at this time."

So you see, it isn't a matter of what we are going to do with all this food. It's really a question of..How much food will we need and where?

The farmer's job gets bigger daily. The war in the Pacific has cut off some of our sources of sugar, and fats and oils from the Far East. The farmer will not only have to produce enough food to help supply all the United Nations, he'll also have to produce crops to replace those supplies we normally import from the Far East.

That's why the 1942 production goal for peanuts for oil calls for 2 and one half times as many acres as last year, and the goal for soybeans for oil calls for half again as many acres.

At the present time, the national supply of most foods is larger than usual, but the drain on these reserves during the coming year will be greater than usual. It's impossible to foresee how much will be needed, but you may be sure that farmers will produce more of the necessary foods this year than ever before. And they'll produce the food necessary for the war.

That's all the food news for today, but you'll hear more detailed information next week.

